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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/734,176	12/15/2003	Wei-Fan Ting	3313-1080P	2135
2292	7590	11/27/2006	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			PANNALA, SATHYANARAYA R	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
			2164	

DATE MAILED: 11/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/734,176	TING ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Sathyanarayan Pannala	2164	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 September 2006.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's Amendment filed on 9/13/2006 has been entered with amended claims 1, 3, 5 and newly added claims 9-11. In this Office Action, claims 1-11 are pending.

Specification

2. The Amended Title of the invention is not approved and Examiner suggesting as "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CONVERTING A CIRCUIT DESIGN PROGRAM GENERATED FILE TO A CIRCUIT LAYOUT PROGRAM FILE" or change to applicant's suitable way. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly

owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary.

Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scoll et al. (US Patent 7,020,853) hereinafter Scoll, and in view of Li (US Patent 6,775,806) hereinafter Li.

5. As per independent claims 1 and 5, Scoll teaches a design analysis workstation for analyzing an integrated circuit that has been deconstructed and a digital image-mosaic of the integrated circuit was acquired at each deconstruction step to permit design and layout information to be extracted (col. 3, lines 3-7). Scoll teaches the claimed, a property database, which stores property definitions of a plurality of fields corresponding to a unified set of names (Fig. 12, col. 12, lines 18-20).

Scoll does not explicitly teach dealing with rules database. However, Li teaches the claimed, a rule database, which stores rule definitions of a plurality of fields corresponding to a unified set of names (Fig. 1, col. 2, lines 31-33). Li teaches the claimed, a conversion module, which analyzes contents of the output file to generate a plurality of fields, extracts the corresponding rule definitions using the unified set of names for performing settings, and adjusts property definitions of all of the fields using the unified set of names to produce a converted file (Fig. 1, col. 2, lines 31-33). Li teaches the claimed, a user interface (UI), which displays all of the fields along with the

corresponding property definitions and rule definitions (Fig. 3, col. 4, lines 2-3). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the data processing art at the time of the invention, to have combined the teachings of the cited references because Li's teachings would have allowed Scoll's method to generate and verify integrated circuit designs on computers while fully integrating design tools associated with the tool suite (col. 2, lines 36-39).

6. As per dependent claim 2, Scoll teaches the claimed, the conversion module further highlights the adjusted fields (Fig. 3, col. 11, lines 4-18).
7. As per dependent claim 3, Li teaches the claimed, the UI further provides editing commands for the user to edit the displayed fields, property definitions, and rule definitions (Fig. 3, col. 5, lines 11-18).
8. As per dependent claims 4, 6, wherein the UI uses an interface compatible with a spread sheet program (Fig. 13, col. 13, lines 43-51).
9. As per dependent claim 7, Scoll teaches the claimed, reading in the fields and extracting the corresponding rules for performing settings, checking whether the property of each of the fields is abnormal and displaying all of the fields on the UI after they are checked (Fig. 2, col. 14, lines 43-54).

10. As per dependent claim 8, Scoll teaches the claimed, the step of checking whether the property of each of the fields is abnormal comprises the steps of: extracting correct properties to adjust the fields; and highlighting the corrected fields (Fig. 3, col. 11, lines 4-18).

11. As per dependent claim 9, L teaches the claimed, the property database includes the unified set of names and the corresponding attributes of the circuit elements (Fig. 6, col. 5, lines 55-61).

12. As per dependent claims 10-11, Li teaches the claimed, the conversion module generates the converted file by extracting the attributes of circuit elements from the property database by comparing names of circuit elements, as it checks the varied objects with the rules database (Fig. 6, col. 5, 56-61).

Response to Arguments

13. Applicant's arguments filed on 9/13/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive and details as follows:

- a) Applicant's argument stated as "Li does not disclose or teach automatically converting the out put file into the converted file..."

In response to Applicant's argument, examiner respectfully disagrees because none of the claims claiming for automatic conversion. If you are interested, a reference is available by Bair et al. (US Patent 5,898,595).

Conclusion

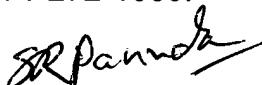
14. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sathyanarayan Pannala whose telephone number is (571) 272-4115. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Rones can be reached on (571) 272-4085. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Sathyanarayan Pannala
Primary Examiner

srp
November 22, 2006